

## REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are allowed in this application. Claims 1 and 15 are independent.

The specification, Claims 1 and 21, and the Abstract of the Disclosure have been objected to for various informalities. Accordingly, the Abstract of the Disclosure, the Specification, and Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to attend to these informalities. In addition, Claim 7 has been amended to attend to a minor informality therein. No new matter has been added.

The drawings filed on September 24, 2004 and October 27, 2004 have been objected to by the Examiner. While the changes made by the replacement drawing filed on October 27, 2003 have been approved, Figs. 1, 3, 4, and 6 (as amended) were objected to for containing reference numerals 18, 105a, 119, 137, and 141, which were not described in the specification. The drawings were also objected to because reference numeral 21 was used to designate both a "fixing device" in Figs. 1 and 4 and a "power supply" in Fig. 3. In response to the objections, Applicants have herein amended Fig. 3 to delete reference numeral 21, and labeled Figs. 6 and 7 as --PRIOR ART--. With respect to reference numerals 18, 105a, 119, 137, and 141, Applicants have amended the specification to insert these reference numerals at the appropriate locations in the specification. These insertions are supported by the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In particular, reference numeral 18 designates a sheet conveying path, as is readily apparent from FIG. 1, when taken in view of the description on page 11, lines 1-12 of the conveyance of the transfer material.

Reference numerals 105a, 119, 137, and 141 refer to elements of a prior art image forming apparatus. Accordingly, the structure of such a device is already known to those of skill in the art and description thereof is not new matter. Moreover, elements 105a, 119, 137, and 141 are used to designate elements that are parallel to elements 5a, 19, 37, and 41, respectively, which are shown in FIG. 1 and described on pages 10-14 of the specification as originally filed.

Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments address each of the objections raised in the Office Action, and that Claims 1-25 remain in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration, entry of the foregoing amendments, and early passage to issue of the application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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DRAWING AMENDMENTS:

Please substitute the enclosed Replacement Sheets for the corresponding original drawing sheets.

The drawings have been amended as follows:

In FIG. 3:

The reference number 21 and the lead line have been deleted.

In Figs. 6 and 7:

Figs. 6 and 7 have been labeled as --PRIOR ART--.